

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
MARCH 25, 2015**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CA**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Hildebrand for Gail Farber (Los Angeles County Flood Control District) – Chair,
Leadership Committee
Leighanne Kirk for Richard Nagel (West Basin MWD) – Chair,
South Bay Subregion
Rob Beste (City of Torrance) – Vice-Chair,
South Bay Subregion
Andy Niknafs for Dave Pettijohn (Department of Water and Power) – Chair,
Upper Los Angeles River Subregion
Nancy Steele (Council for Watershed Health) – Vice-Chair,
Upper Los Angeles River Subregion
Randy Schoellerman (Water Quality Authority) – Vice-Chair,
Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Subregion
Esther Rojas for Chris Cash (Gateway Water Management Authority) – Chair,
Lower San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Subregion
Grace Kast for Chris Cash (Gateway Water Management Authority) – Chair,
Lower San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Subregion
Marybeth Vergara for Mark Stanley (Watershed Conservation Authority) – Vice-Chair,
Lower San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Subregion
David Pedersen (Las Virgenes MWD) – Chair,
North Santa Monica Bay Subregion
Barbara Cameron (City of Malibu) – Vice-Chair,
North Santa Monica Bay Subregion
Sharon Green for Grace Hyde (County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts),
Sanitation WMA
Tony Zampielo (Raymond Basin)
Groundwater WMA

OTHERS PRESENT:

Angela George, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Terri Grant, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Russ Bryden, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Virginia Maloles-Fowler, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Amanda Guzman-Perez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Erica Sasman, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Dan Sulzer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Edward J. Caldwell, South Bay Subregion

Dawn Flores, RMC Water & Environment
Jeff Helsley, Stetson Engineers
Frances Spivy-Weber, State Water Resources Control Board
Leslie Schenk, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works/
Programs Development Division
Mary Zauner, County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts
Miguel Luna (DAC Coordinator), DAKELUNA
Mike Antos, Council for Watershed Health
Reymundo Trejo, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Simran Sikand, North East Trees
Timothy Lippman, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Wendy La, LASER, LLC
Wing Tam, City of Los Angeles

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves. The Chair welcomed Grace Kast from Gateway and David Pedersen from North Santa Monica Bay Region.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2015, MEETING SUMMARY

The Chair requested comments prior to the approval of the meeting summary. Motion to approve the January 28, 2015, meeting summary was made by Tony Zampiello and seconded by Barbara Cameron. The meeting summary was approved unanimously.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Next Steps for GLAC Integrated Regional Water Management Update from Planning Subcommittee

Plan Implementation Items: Russ Bryden provided a quick overview of the Department of Water Resources requirements regarding adoption of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) plan by the Regional Water Management Group (GLAC Region IRWM Leadership Committee) and agencies receiving grant funding. At the December 10, 2014, meeting the Leadership Committee (LC) formed a Plan Update Ad Hoc Committee (PUC) to (1) review the current IRWM Plan to generate a list of plan implementation items, (2) discuss future opportunities to expand the role of IRWM, and (3) review the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Interim Operating Guidelines (Guidelines).

The Subregions were asked to discuss these topics at their steering committee meetings and the PUC will be preparing the report of recommendations for the LC. Staff expects the report to be presented to the LC in the upcoming months.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Temporary Voting Rights for New Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Bryden provided a summary of the request to provide interim voting rights to the Subregion's new Chair, Chris Cash, while the MOU is being updated to reflect their participation as a member of the GLAC Region IRWM group. Staff conferred with County Counsel and verified that the Subregion's request was permissible as long as the LC voted and approved it. A motion to approve the Subregion's request for interim voting rights for their Chair was made by Nancy Steele and seconded by Rob Beste. The request was approved unanimously.

B. Prop 84 Implementation Grants – 2015 IRWM Grant Solicitation

Mr. Bryden stated that DWR released the draft 2015 Grant Implementation Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) on March 12, 2015. The Subregions are already implementing their Call for Projects. To proceed with the application process, staff requested direction from the LC on the following three items:

- i. Submit Public Comments on the Grant Guidelines: Staff recommended that the LC direct staff on behalf of GLAC Region IRWM to work with Upper Santa Clara River, and Watersheds Coalition of Ventura IRWM Regions to prepare and submit a joint comment letter to DWR. Comments from the group discussion included a request to the LC to change the date for project selection to June to allow review of the selection criteria and possible changes to the PSP. It was also suggested that the joint comment letter include a request to extend the application deadline to allow DACs more time for planning and to highlight the importance of the request. A motion to direct staff to prepare comments and submit a joint letter was made by Sharon Green and seconded by Leighanne Kirk. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ii. Recommended Selection Parameters for Suite of Projects: Staff recommended that the LC establish a set of regional parameters to be used in guiding project selection for the 2015 grant opportunity. A handout on the Parameters was reviewed. The group discussed the impacts on DAC's, reduction of match to 35%, the insufficiency of the 2.5% administrative fee, and consideration of an application cost reduction. Grace Kast questioned the sufficiency of the 2.5% administrative fee and suggested that the actual costs incurred by LACFCD staff who administers the grant funds be reviewed. Tony Zampielo added that the GLAC Region's programs have been expanding and to look at future contributions to ensure that the Region's operating budget covers all activities involved in running the IRWM Program. In the interest of moving things along, Gary Hildebrand suggested moving forward with the current administrative fee and to take a closer look into this and other budget and operating issues for future discussion.

Since Gateway and its consultant have the expertise to prepare and provide the information needed by the other consultant that the LC is bringing on board to prepare and submit the application to DWR, Grace Kast requested pursuing a discounted application fee. Other members who similarly use their own consultants to prepare the application packet for their projects requested to look into a discounted application fee for the Region. A motion to approve the Recommended Application Parameters was made by David Pedersen and seconded by Nancy Steele. Motion was approved unanimously.

- iii. Application Preparation: All consultants were asked to excuse themselves. Staff recommended that the LC request the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) to contract with RMC Water & Environment to prepare the application in response to the 2015 Grant Implementation PSP. Grace Kast requested that staff pursue with RMC Water & Environment a discounted application fee for the Region. Discussion also ensued into the release of a Request for Qualifications to generate a list of As-Needed Consultants to use for future funding applications and other IRWM activities. A motion to request the LACFCD to contract with RMC Water & Environment to prepare the 2015 Implementation Grant on behalf of the GLAC Region IRWM was made by Grace Kast and seconded by Barbara Cameron. Motion was approved unanimously.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Steering Committee Chairs

- i. NSMB: Barbara Cameron introduced Timothy Lippman from Supervisor Kuehl's Office. The Steering Committee met to review projects for the 2015 IRWM Grant application.
- ii. South Bay: Leighanne Kirk reported that the Steering Committee did not meet for the last two months but is scheduled to meet on April 7, 2015.
- iii. Upper LA: Nancy Steele reported that the Steering Committee met and discussed projects for the 2015 IRWM Grant application. The Council for Watershed Health will be honoring the GLAC Region IRWM on May 31, 2015. Members will be invited to the event.
- iv. Upper San Gabriel: Randy Schoellerman reported that the Steering Committee met and discussed guidelines, the MOU, and a proposal solicitation schedule. At the next meeting, projects will be reviewed for the 2015 IRWM Grant application.
- v. Lower San Gabriel: Grace Kast reported that the Steering Committee reviewed the current list of projects and will review them further at their April meeting.

B. Water Management Area Representatives

- i. Open Space: No report.
- ii. Sanitation: Sharon Green provided an update on SB485. To date, the Sanitation Districts have mostly received support from other municipalities and agencies.
- iii. Stormwater: Wing Tam provided an update. Enhanced Watershed Management Program workshops were held and agencies received feedback to complete the Program EIR (PEIR) to submit to the Regional Water Quality Control Board by June. Angela George added that public meetings were conducted for the Draft PEIR and the public comment period had recently closed. It is anticipated that certification of

the Draft PEIR will be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors late April or early May 2015.

- iv. Surface Water: No report.
- v. Groundwater: Tony Zampiello reported a new low groundwater level record of 179.54 feet below mean sea level that is 21 feet below operating range. He mentioned a deal with Metropolitan Water District and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District to deliver 60 cubic feet per second to the San Dimas connection. He also reported that the Watermaster's Counsel submitted proposed language for AB485 on water rights.
- vi. Stormwater Capture: Gary Hildebrand reported that less than 24,000 acre feet per year of stormwater have been captured to date.

C. Legislative Committee: Edward J. Caldwell reported that the trip to Sacramento was rescheduled for May. He will be sending an e-mail with the updated trip information by next week.

D. DAC Committee

Mark Stanley reported that the "Speakers" series held at Lynwood with featured speaker Assembly Member Rendon was a success. He stated that the series will continue and will announce future events once speakers are confirmed and scheduled. He also stated that the committee will be evaluating technical assistance for DACs in their April meeting. Miguel Luna continued the report on DAC activities and stated that the first Speakers series was well attended. He mentioned that one of the topics that piqued most of the attendees' interest is the transportation-water nexus. He also stated the importance of including a DAC presentation in the May trip to Sacramento.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Wendy La distributed a handout on the Kish/Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians. She reported that the tribe is interested in participating in IRWM, they are recognized by the state, and are currently applying for federal recognition.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/OTHER ITEMS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:42 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.